



Hands on Habitat

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

What Are the Problems?

- **Tidal wetlands** Fifty percent have been damaged by tidal restrictions, fill placement, or both.
- **Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds** These beds have declined by 20% in Massachusetts.
- **Fish passage** Most Massachusetts rivers and streams that support migratory fish have barriers that keep fish from reaching spawning grounds.

Background

The coastline of Massachusetts is home to a variety of habitats, including salt marshes, eelgrass beds, and coastal streams. Coastal habitats support a wide variety of fish and wildlife, contribute significantly to the area's biological integrity and diversity, and help support the commonwealth's economy.

What We Do

- Enhance fish passage by constructing fish ladders at dams or removing dams entirely
- Widen bridges and modify culverts to improve tidal flushing in coastal wetlands
- Restore SAV beds at strategic locations
- Educate communities about the value of healthy habitat and restoration

How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among the commonwealth's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation in Massachusetts.



Our Accomplishments

Since 1997, we have:

- Awarded more than \$3.5 million and leveraged another \$6.4 million
- Funded 85 projects
- Completed 44 projects
- Restored more than 2,600 acres of habitat
- Opened nearly 60 stream miles for fish passage
- Engaged roughly 800 volunteers for 9,800 service hours through partner-led activities

Our Partners

NOAA works with 133 local, private, and public partners in Massachusetts, including Restore America's Estuaries, Conservation Law Foundation, Massachusetts Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Wetlands Restoration Program, FishAmerica Foundation, Gulf of Maine Council, and Trustees of Reservations.

Our Focus

Counteract development impacts, including dams and roadways, that block fish passage and damage coastal habitats throughout Massachusetts

Contact

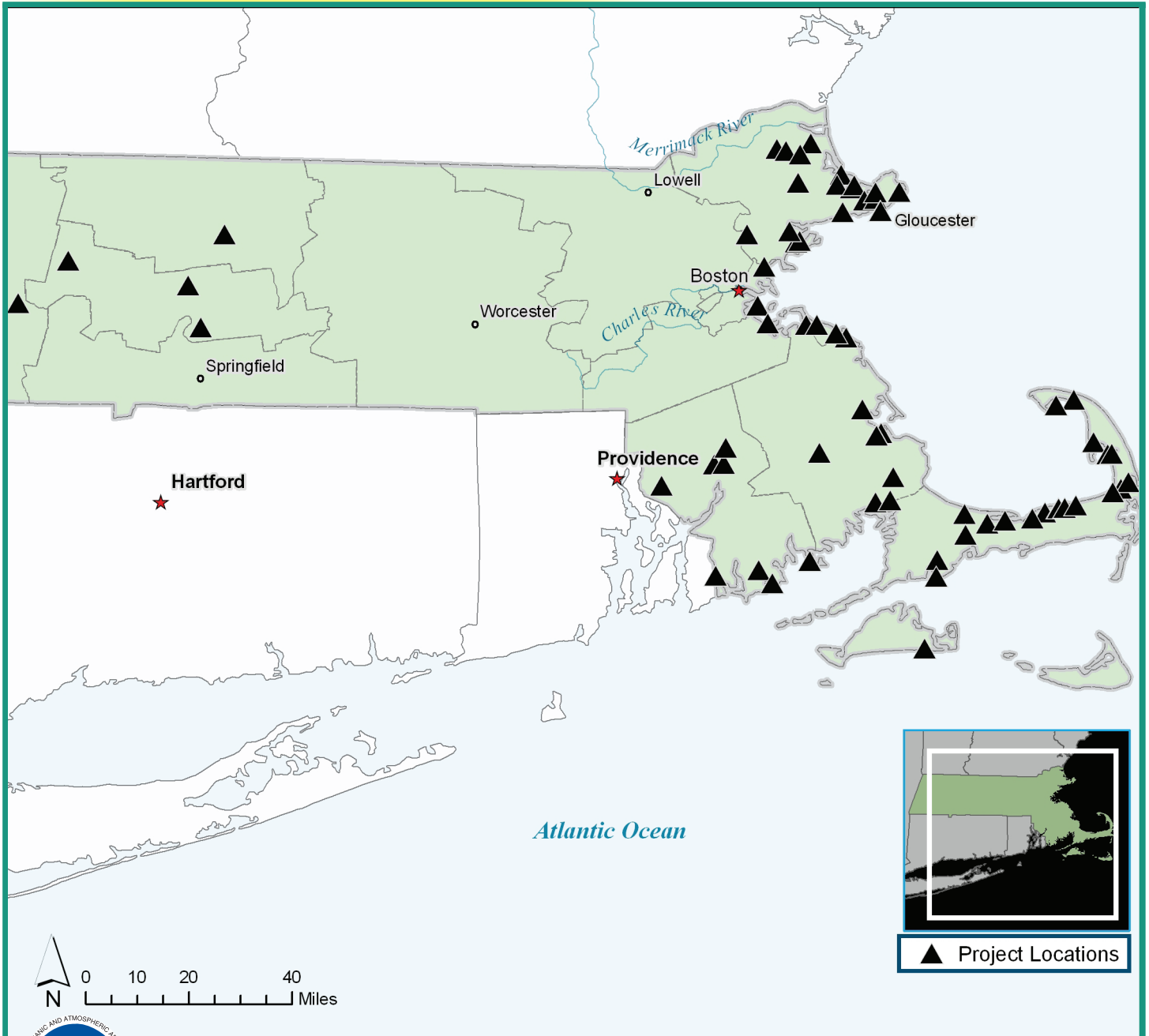
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NOAA CRP: Celebrating 10 Years of Coastal Restoration

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

Argilla Road Salt Marsh Restoration, Ipswich

Bridge Creek Salt Marsh Restoration, Barnstable

East Harbor Estuarine Restoration Project, Truro

Eastern Point Salt Marsh Restoration, Gloucester

Edgartown Herring Creek Restoration, Edgartown

Mary Chase Marsh Restoration, Eastham

Quivett Creek Salt Marsh and Anadromous Fish Restoration, East Dennis

Sesuit Creek Herring Run Restoration, Dennis

Shad Factory Dam Fish Passage, Rehoboth

State Game Farm Salt Marsh Restoration, East Sandwich

Town Brook Herring Run Restoration, Plymouth